

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 13, 2026

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary of Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

Secretary Rollins:

We write to you to request a briefing for members of the House Agriculture Committee on the status of the Department's efforts against New World Screwworm (NWS) and an update on the status of the sterile fly production and dispersal facilities in Texas. We appreciate the work that the administration has done so far to prevent the spread of NWS and that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has used proven science and relied upon nonpartisan, career civil servants to inform its decisions.

Over the past few months, there have been numerous cases of NWS close to the U.S.-Mexico border. Cases within the U.S. are more likely during the warmer spring months. Cattle producers along the southern border are particularly vulnerable to NWS. Any outbreak in the U.S. would be devastating to livestock producers and push cattlemen and women near the border to liquidate their herds, which would compound the herd contraction that we've seen across the country.


Shrinking U.S. cattle herds have reduced the domestic beef supply, contributing to higher grocery prices and underscoring the need to strengthen American cattle production. Instead of undermining U.S. ranchers by importing foreign beef, USDA must do everything it can to improve, strengthen, and protect domestic herds. It is critical that the administration continue to work with Congress and industry to ensure that everyone is on the same page and that we can effectively collaborate to mitigate any widespread outbreak of NWS in the U.S.

As a component of the briefing, we would like answers to the following questions:

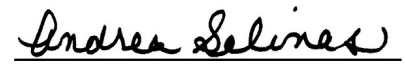
1. What data and information are you using to assess if and when to reopen the U.S.-Mexico border to cattle trade? Do you commit to continue using sound science and research to inform any decisions on opening the border?
2. If a case of NWS is detected within the United States,
 - a. What impact will that have on how foreign countries view American beef, and
 - b. How will you work with cattle producers in the area to prevent further spread?
3. Will recent changes in APHIS leadership affect the approach that USDA is taking towards NWS?
4. Will any reorganization plan within USDA impact APHIS staff or change the way that state diagnostic laboratories coordinate with USDA?

5. How is USDA distributing the \$100 million that was allocated for the NWS Grand Challenge? And what criteria is USDA using to determine how that money should be spent?
6. Since the opening of the dispersal facility, please provide Congress with a status update on the operation status. In addition, please provide an update on the production side of the facility.

Sincerely,




Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress




Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress




Angie Craig
Member of Congress
Ranking Member, Committee
on Agriculture



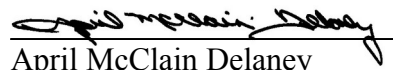
David Scott
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress